

Baglihar Hydro-electric Project in Jammu and Kashmir

3020. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBANA BHARTIA:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank arbitration in the dispute between India and Pakistan over the Baglihar Hydro-electric Project in Jammu and Kashmir has submitted the report and has upheld New Delhi's position on the river Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the main findings of the World Bank; and

(c) whether Government are going ahead with the project in view of the World Bank's Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Neutral Expert, appointed by the World Bank in the matter of Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant under construction on river Chenab in Jammu & Kashmir, has not delivered his final decision so far. India has however placed its views effectively before the Neutral Expert by deputing eminent legal and technical experts in the matter.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The project is going ahead, keeping appropriately in view the process before the Neutral Experts so far and his delivering a final decision in the coming months.

Disagreements on river-linking project

†3021. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose of river-linking plan and the reasons for not having any progress therein;

(b) the number of countries or states which have not given their consent in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons for their disagreement and steps being taken by Government to solve their objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The National Perspective Plan (NPP), formulated by the Government for Water Resources Development, envisages to transfer water from water surplus regions to water deficit regions. National Water Development Agency (NWDA), a society under Ministry of Water Resources, after several technical studies identified 30 links under NPP (16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan) for preparation of Feasibility Reports. NWDA has prepared Feasibility Reports (FRs) for 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links under Himalayan Component (Indian portion). Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for one priority link viz. Ken-Betwa Link has been taken up by NWDA after signing of a tripartite agreement between the Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on 25.08.2006.

(b) Kerala State has not consented for Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link project and passed a resolution to this effect in the Legislative Assembly.

(c) The major apprehensions of the States are—

- About the requirement of power to lift waters as proposed in link proposals.
- About disturbing the existing allocation as per awards for fresh agreements on NWDA proposals.
- That the link proposals may have adverse effects on the existing irrigation and power requirements.

The Government constituted a group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and consisting of other officers of CWC, NWDA and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resources Departments from the concerned States in June, 2002 to discuss with the States the issues for arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus water and preparation of DPR by NWDA. The Group has held seven meetings on 5 priority links.